

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Fig. 49A with the amended figure enclosed herewith. A marked-up copy of Fig. 49A showing the changes is also included.

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the specification and Fig. 49A are amended to correct inadvertent errors.

Claims 12-19 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyachi et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0048497) in view of a number of secondary references. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because the Miyachi et al. reference is not prior art to the subject application, which claims foreign priority benefits of Japanese patent application No. 2001-106283 filed April 4, 2001. The filing date of the Miyachi et al. reference is May 30, 2001. Accordingly, the foreign priority date of the subject application antedates the filing date of the Miyachi et al. reference. A certified English translation of the priority document is enclosed to perfect the priority claim of the subject application. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if a further interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fig.49A

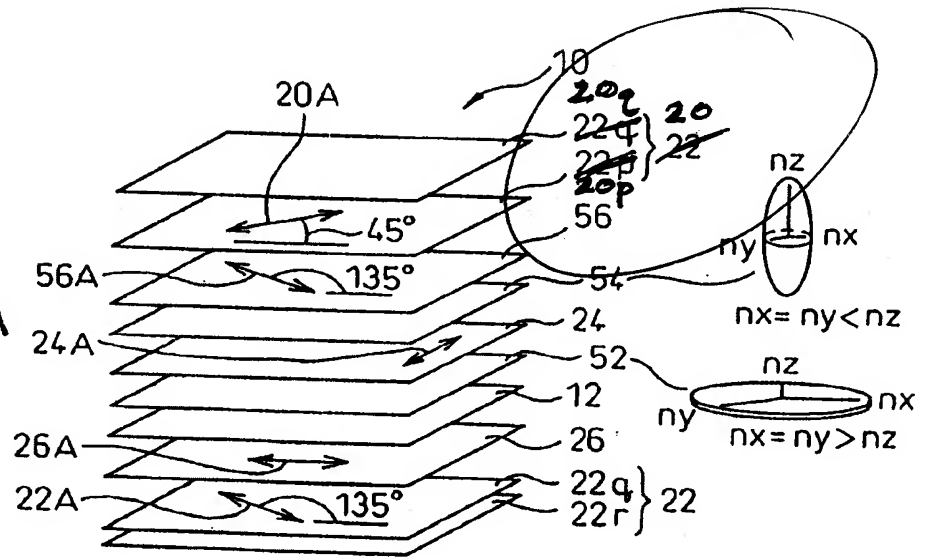


Fig.49B

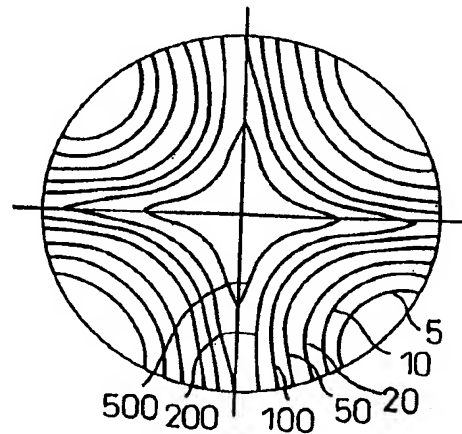


Fig.49C

